

CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A method performed at a content
2 recipient comprising:
3 executing first program code at the
4 content recipient so as to identify a content
5 provider having posted content of interest to the
6 content recipient; and,
7 executing second program code at the
8 content recipient so as to automatically initiate a
9 request for the posted content.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising terminating the automatic initiation of
3 the request for the posted content without
4 communicating with the content provider to effect
5 the termination.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 executing of the second program code at the content
3 recipient so as to automatically initiate a request
4 for the posted content comprises executing second
5 program code at the content recipient so as to
6 automatically and recurrently initiate requests for
7 the posted content.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further
2 comprising terminating the automatic initiation of
3 the request for the posted content without
4 communicating with the content provider to effect
5 the termination.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the
2 method is performed without identifying the content
3 recipient to the content provider.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further
2 comprising terminating the automatic initiation of
3 the request for the posted content without
4 communicating with the content provider to effect
5 the termination.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein
2 executing second program code at the content
3 recipient so as to automatically initiate a request
4 for the posted content comprises executing second
5 program code at the content recipient so as to
6 automatically and recurrently initiate requests for
7 the posted content.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further
2 comprising terminating the automatic and recurrent
3 initiation of the requests for the posted content
4 without communicating with the content provider to
5 effect the termination.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising executing third program code at the
3 content recipient so as to provide notice to the
4 content recipient that no posted content has been
5 received by the content recipient in response to
6 execution of the second program code.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising executing third program code at the
3 content recipient so as to receive the posted
4 content at the content recipient in response to
5 execution of the second program code.

1 11. The method of claim 10 further
2 comprising executing fourth program code at the
3 content recipient so as to provide notice to the
4 content recipient that the posted content has been
5 received at the content recipient in response to
6 execution of the second and third program code.

1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein
2 executing the third program code comprises executing
3 the third program code so that the posted content is
4 displayed behind a session if the session is active.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further
2 comprising executing fourth program code at the
3 content recipient so as to provide notice to the
4 content recipient that the posted content has been
5 received at the content recipient in response to
6 execution of the second and third program code,
7 wherein the notice is displayed even if the session
8 is active.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the
2 notice is an icon.

1 15. The method of claim 13 further
2 comprising executing fifth program code at the
3 content recipient so that, upon an action related to
4 the notice, the posted content burns through the
5 session so that the posted content is visible to a
6 user.

1 16. The method of claim 13 further
2 comprising executing fifth program code at the
3 content recipient so that, upon an action related to
4 the notice, the posted content is displayed in front
5 of the session so that the posted content is visible
6 to a user.

1 17. The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising electronically receiving the second
3 program code at the content recipient from the
4 content provider.

1 18. A computer readable storage medium,
2 the computer readable storage medium storing program
3 code which, when executed by a computing device,
4 performs the following functions:

5 automatically initiating a request for the
6 download of content posted by a content provider;
7 and,

8 receiving the downloaded posted content in
9 response to the request.

1 19. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, provides notice that
4 the posted content has been received in response to
5 the request.

1 20. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, displays the posted
4 content behind a session if the session is active.

1 21. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 20 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, provides notice that
4 the posted content has been received in response to
5 the request.

1 22. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, provides notice that
4 the posted content has been received in response to
5 the request, and wherein the notice is displayed
6 even if a session is active.

1 23. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 22 wherein the notice is an icon.

1 24. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, and upon an action
4 related to the notice, burns the posted content
5 through a session so that the posted content is
6 visible to a user.

1 25. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, and upon an action
4 related to the notice, displays the posted content
5 in front of a session so that the posted content is
6 visible to a user.

1 26. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, automatically and
4 recurrently initiates requests for the posted
5 content.

1 27. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the initiating of requests and
3 the receiving of the posted content are performed
4 without identifying the content recipient to the
5 content provider.

1 28. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 27 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, automatically and
4 recurrently initiates requests for the posted
5 content.

1 29. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code, when
3 executed by a computing device, provides notice that
4 no posted content has been received in response to
5 the request.

1 30. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 18 wherein the stored program code is
3 electronically received from a remote site and is
4 stored by the computer readable storage medium.

1 31. The computer readable storage medium
2 of claim 34 wherein the remote site is the content
3 provider.

1 32. A method comprising:
2 executing first program code at a content
3 provider so as to post content for access by a
4 content recipient;
5 executing second program code at the
6 content recipient so as to automatically (i) access
7 the content provider and (ii) initiate receipt by
8 the content recipient of the posted content.

1 33. The method of claim 32 further
2 comprising terminating the automatic access and
3 initiation functions of the second program code
4 without communicating with the content provider to
5 effect the termination.

1 34. The method of claim 32 wherein
2 executing the second program code at the content
3 recipient comprises executing the second program

4 code at the content recipient so as to automatically
5 and recurrently (i) access the content provider and
6 (ii) initiate the receipt by the content recipient
7 of the posted content.

1 35. The method of claim 32 performed
2 without identifying the content recipient to the
3 content provider.

1 36. The method of claim 32 further
2 comprising executing third program code at the
3 content recipient so that the posted content is
4 displayed behind a session if the session is active.

1 37. The method of claim 36 further
2 comprising executing fourth program code at the
3 content recipient so as to provide notice to the
4 content recipient that the posted content has been
5 received at the content recipient in response to
6 execution of the second program code, wherein the
7 notice is displayed even if the session is active.

1 38. The method of claim 37 further
2 comprising executing fifth program code at the
3 content recipient so that, upon an action related to
4 the notice, the posted content burns through the
5 session so that the posted content is visible to a
6 user.

1 39. The method of claim 37 further
2 comprising executing fifth program code at the
3 content recipient so that, upon an action related to
4 the notice, the posted content is displayed in front
5 of the session so that the posted content is visible
6 to a user.

1 40. The method of claim 32 further
2 comprising executing third program code at the
3 content provider so as to determine whether the
4 content recipient possesses the second program code
5 and, if the content recipient does not possess the
6 second program code, to download the second program
7 code to the content recipient.

1 41. The method of claim 32 further
2 comprising electronically receiving the second
3 program code at the content recipient from the
4 content provider.

1 42. The method of claim 32 further
2 comprising electronically receiving the second
3 program code at the content recipient.